Material Separation Plan
For the Diversion of Mercury
(MSP3, January 1 - December 31, 2006)

Annual Report

Wheelabrator North Andover Inc.

February 2007

Wheelabrator North Andover Inc.
Materials Separation Plan
Annual Report on the Results of the Mercury Recovery Program

Introduction

This report presents annual results of Materials Separation Plan (MSP3). It includes activities for the period covering January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. The report describes the activities involved in the design, implementation and operation of the Mercury Recovery Program (MRP) in each community. Each MRP is community focused, locally based and operated. Wheelabrator provides all of the technical, logistical and financial support for each program. The corner stone of the MRP Program are the community collection sites. Each community has at least one, often two and in some cases three centrally located and easily accessible locations in the city or town where residents can safely dispose of products that contain mercury.

MRP for 2006 consisted of the following elements:

- Regional Outreach
- Local Outreach / Education
- Mercury Separation and Recycling
- Thermometer Exchange
- Thermostat Recovery
- Thermostat Reimbursement Program
- School Clean Sweeps
- Button-Cell Battery Collection
- Bulk Mercury Collection
- Fluorescent Lamp Reimbursement
- Purchase of Sheds for Community Program

Wheelabrator has continued to develop, expand and improve the MRP in each community participating in the program.

- The Regional Outreach placed informative educational advertisements in an expanded number of radio stations.

- The Local Outreach placed six advertisements in the local newspapers in each community, promoting the local Mercury Recovery Program, informing residents where they could safely dispose of mercury products in their community. These advertisements are an important aspect of the overall educational and outreach effort.

- The Mercury Separation and Recycling, Local Community Collection Program was continued in each of the participating communities. Each community's collection site(s) is monitored on a regular basis. When the

collection pails are full they are serviced promptly by the service provider. The program collects elemental mercury and a wide variety of mercury containing devices including: fever thermometers, lab thermometers, thermostats, mercury switches, sphygmomanometers, button-cell batteries, barometers and an assortment of miscellaneous mercury containing items.

- Training and education is conducted with personnel at each site on an ongoing and as needed basis.

- A special program for the collection of thermostats continues to develop in participating communities. Local Boards of Health are encouraged to pass a regulation banning the improper disposal of thermostats.

- A new program providing a financial reimbursement for used thermostats was offered to plumbing supply businesses within the service area

- School Clean Sweeps collection program continues to be offered to local school systems on an as needed basis.

- Button-cell batteries continued to be collected utilizing small collection boxes. A new reimbursement program for button-cell batteries was offered to each community.

- The Fluorescent Lamp Reimbursement offered financial reimbursement for costs related to the disposal of mercury containing lamps such as fluorescent and HID bulbs.

- A new program providing storage sheds for Universal Waste is being offered to participating communities.

The Mercury Recovery Program has been successful in removing thousands of mercury containing products from the municipal solid waste stream. The Program through its regional and local educational outreach efforts, has contributed to a greater awareness on the part of residents regarding the potential impacts of mercury on human health and the environment. Residents are increasingly aware of where in their community they can safely dispose of mercury and products containing mercury. The program continues to evolve as new approaches encouraging participation in the safe removal of mercury from the waste stream are implemented.

1. Regional Outreach

The Integrated Waste Services Association coordinated the regional education / outreach program for five Massachusetts' waste-to-energy facilities including facilities located in Saugus, North Andover, Millbury, Haverhill, and SEMASS.

Integrated Waste Services Association's activities in support of Massachusetts' Waste-to-Energy Facilities' Materials Separation Plan (MSP3) for 2006 are a continuation of the IWSA's 2005 Regional Education Program with a few modifications. This following report, prepared by IWSA, describes the activities involved in the design, implementation and operation of IWSA's Program in support of the five waste-to-energy plants operating in Massachusetts and their Mercury Recovery Programs (MRP). Each facilities' MRP is community focused, locally based and operated; and the IWSA activities are designed to support in a coordinated fashion the MSPs on a regional basis.

IWSA's Annual Report on the Results of the Mercury Recovery Program

- **Introduction**

The Integrated Waste Services Association's activities in support of Massachusetts' Waste-to-Energy Facilities' Materials Separation Plan for 2006 continues the direction set in prior years. This report describes the activities involved in the design, implementation and operation of IWSA's Program in support of the five waste-to-energy plants operating in Massachusetts and their Mercury Recovery Programs (MRP). Each facilities' MRP is community focused, locally based and operated; and the IWSA activities are designed to support in a coordinated fashion the MSPs on a regional basis.

IWSA Regional Program activities for 2006 consisted of the following elements:

- Radio Advertising for "Keep Mercury From Rising"
- Evaluation & Analysis of the "Keep Mercury From Rising" campaign
- Revision & Update of Website www.keepmercuryfromrising.org
- Availability of print and video materials to facilities, the public and media

- **Regional Education Program "Keep Mercury From Rising"**

The Integrated Waste Services Association coordinated the regional education / outreach program for five Massachusetts' waste-to-energy facilities including facilities located in Saugus, North Andover, Millbury, Haverhill, and SEMASS.

a) Objectives

In 2006, the Regional Outreach Plan supported individual facility programs by the continued promotion of the media campaign, "Keep Mercury from Rising". This campaign included two waves of radio advertisements to designed to reach the broadest possible audience. The campaign used targeted advertising educating the listeners about the concerns related to mercury. The advertisements also encouraged residents to contact their

local health departments to receive more information about mercury and find out where in their communities they could dispose of mercury containing devices.

The objectives for 2006 were met and included the following:

- The Regional Outreach Program continued to raise awareness about mercury-containing products in the home and the proper handling and disposal of these products;

- The Program provided information and promote local recycling events;

- The Program continued to build an integrated communications program that leveraged opportunities for incremental, free media, and worked synergistically with the efforts of individual waste-to-energy facilities.

b) Tactics

A public survey was completed in mid-2006 measuring the effectiveness of the educational campaign "Keep Mercury From Rising." Findings from this survey guide the development of the Regional Program. The website, www.keepmercuryfromrising.org, continues to be more user-friendly, and includes more contact information and contractor material, as well as continuing to provide information and assistance with recycling of mercury-containing products to the general public. IWSA produced five videos in 2003 for each waste-to-energy plant, and these videos are available on the website. The videos show the unique and effective programs now in place to keep mercury containing products out of the waste stream.

i) Survey

The effectiveness of the regional education campaign is in large part measured by an annual research survey. The polling is designed to measure positive changes in public attitudes and behaviors, as well as the receptiveness of the message. The survey questionnaire was in the field during June 2006, and consisted of 400 completes, providing a 95% confidence level. IWSA polling has measured some marked improvements in mercury awareness, responsibility, and actions – the likes of which we have not seen since 2001. For example, fish advisory mercury awareness (87%) scored its highest total in six years. Recycling participation (86%), also a six-year high, topped its 2004 high of 83 percent. Owners of thermometers were deemed most responsible for the safe disposal of a mercury thermometer – another six year

high – when compared to manufacturers, waste companies, and the government. A growing number of people (41% today vs. 16% in 2001) would drive to a mercury collection center to properly dispose of a mercury product. Glass thermometer awareness reached a three-year high at 91%.

Circular wall thermostats made the most significant year-over-year jump (65% today vs. 58% in 2005) which may be due in part to the proactive initiatives of IWSA members who have spearheaded the awareness campaigns at the grassroots level. Fluorescent light bulbs also scored significantly higher mercury awareness than the 2001 levels (46% today vs. 29% in 2001). Fifty-six percent of respondents would pay $33-$45 to replace a $30 circular wall thermostat with a non-mercury replacement; an additional 23% - another six year high - would pay at least double ($60 or more) for the non-mercury replacement. In addition, doctors were the most trusted source for health and environmental information.

ii) Advertising

Analyzing past results, it was determined that the radio ads reached a greater target audience than the print advertisements in newspapers. Rather than purchasing one wave of radio advertisements, IWSA purchased two separate three-week radio buys in 2006 and advertised on radio stations that broadened our geographic outreach. Radio is a targeted medium that provides cost-efficient mass communication and built frequency of message delivery.

The first three-week radio buy was implemented May 22 through June 18, 2006. Markets targeted by the radio buy were Boston, Worcester, New Bedford, and Cape Cod. In order to maximize the dissemination of the message, IWSA purchased another three-week radio buy that aired September 11 through October 1, 2006. Based on the results of the survey conducted after the radio ad, we believe the plan was successful in increasing public awareness. By transferring the budget for print advertising to a second radio wave almost five months later, we have broadened the opportunities for a successful campaign.

iii) Web-based Tool

The website, www.keepmercuryfromrising.org, is user-friendly and provides additional information:

The site provides navigation under the masthead and incorporates information in the following categories:

Home – includes background on Keep Mercury From Rising and information on calling 1-866-9MERCURY for more information about safe disposal options.

Drop-off sites – provides information on where to drop-off mercury containing items.

Spills – provides a variety of information on actions one should take in the event of a mercury spill.

FAQs –provides answers to five common questions.

Video/Audio – provides the five videos developed by the facilities as well as an audio file of the advertisement that aired for six weeks in 2005.

Links – links were proactively sought and added to this page and efforts were made to increase the number of other website that link to http://www.keepmercuryfromrising.org.

Contractors - contains useful information and links for sources of mercury related information.

iv) Print Materials

IWSA continued to make available education brochures and print information developed in 2003. The basic "Keep Mercury From Rising" message is consistent with media formats.

v) Video

The five-minute "Keep Mercury from Rising" educational video was completed for each facility in 2003. The video explains the need to recycle mercury-containing products and the efforts undertaken by the state of Massachusetts and waste-to energy facilities to reduce the amount of mercury entering the environment.

The video now is being used at the five waste-to-energy facilities for educational purposes during tours and other meetings. Copies of the video have been made available to local cable access television stations and a "B-roll" of visuals and sound is available for media covering MSP events. Copies

of the video also have been given to local public officials to be shown at meetings, schools, senior citizen centers, and other organizations that would benefit from viewing the video. As noted above, the video also may be viewed at the website.

c) 2006 Expenditures

Activity	Actual Expenditure
Survey	***$18,000***
Media Buys	***$146,241***
Website	**$132**
Print	**$0**
Video	**$0**

2. Local Outreach / Education

The local outreach / education effort consisted of several activities with a goal of increasing community awareness concerning mercury. The outreach / educational effort focused on three principles of proper management of mercury and products containing mercury. It identified the environmental and health impacts of mercury, identified products containing mercury and provided instructions on how residents can properly manage and dispose of mercury in their community. These activities consisted of newspaper advertisements, local use of “Mercury is Rising” video for presentations and cable showings, educational flyer mailings and distribution, local display of the educational board.

a) Newspaper Advertisements

The Mercury Recovery Program continued to be advertised in local newspapers. This local outreach activity has proven to be an effective method of educating residents about mercury and the need to properly dispose of products that contain mercury. The local program coordinators consistently report that there is always an immediate increase in activity after an ad runs in their local newspaper.

The newspaper ads were specific to each community’s program. They informed residents of the potential harmful effects of mercury to human health and the environment and instructed residents where they could safely dispose of mercury containing products in their community.

A total of one hundred and forty-one ads were placed in local newspapers promoting the program. Most of the ads were 5” x 5” ads. A total of six ads

were planned for each community. The ads were placed in each community's local newspaper for the months of: March, April, May, September, October, and November. Four additional ads were placed for special mercury collection events such as Household Hazardous Waste collections. The vast majority of the newspapers are weekly publications usually published on Wednesday or Thursday of the week.

In past years the ads for the towns of Wenham and Hamilton were both placed as individual ads in the Hamilton / Wenham Chronicle on the same day. This year, starting with the ad in June, the ads were combined together in one larger ad **(Attachment #1)** that resulted in a larger visual impact in the newspaper.

Four of the six ads were generic to the program, listing a variety of common products that contain mercury. All of these products could be properly disposed of at the local collection site (s). The ads also informed residents of the on-going thermometer exchange program and encouraged them to exchange their mercury fever thermometer for a new digital thermometer. The remaining two ads were specific to thermostats, encouraging contractors and residents to properly dispose of these products at the local collection site.

b) "Keep Mercury from Rising" Video

In 2004 local cable access television stations in each community received a copy of the "Keep Mercury from Rising" video. In addition, the Director of Health in each community received a copy of the film.

Many local cable access channels utilize the film as a community service announcement. The film also continues to be made available to local groups, organizations and schools through the Board of Health offices in each community. The film is regularly used by the program coordinator in community and school presentations. Wheelabrator North Andover continues to show the film for educational purposes during tours, trainings and other meetings

c) Educational Display Board

The educational display boards that were distributed to each community in 2002 are still being effectively utilized in the local community outreach campaign. Several of the boards are permanently displayed at the city or town hall. In many communities the boards are periodically displayed and rotated among the local libraries, senior citizen centers, health fairs and town meetings. These boards compliment the other local outreach efforts reinforcing the importance of properly disposing of mercury containing devices.

3. Mercury Separation and Recycling, Local Community Collection Programs

The community based collection sites continue to be the cornerstone of the overall Mercury Recovery Program. Each community has at least one; some have two centrally located, easily accessible collection site(s). These sites are typically located at the Board of Health office, Department of Public Works and or the Transfer Station.

There is a minimum of two five-gallon pails for the collection of mercury containing items at each of these sites. The second pail is the backup and is to be used only after the first pail becomes full. The individual(s) at each site responsible for the daily management of the program have been trained in the proper handling and management of mercury containing products. They have also been trained in the proper clean-up procedures in the case of a spill. Each location has a mercury spill kit and a box of zip-lock plastic bags. Written instructions are on the spill kit itself as well as on each five-gallon pail. Due to the fact that there are frequent changes in personnel, training is reviewed with the staff on an as-needed basis during visits to the collection sites. In most cases some form of training and education takes place on each visit.

Enviro-Safe is the service provider for the MRP. Attached to each five-gallon pail are two stickers. One sticker contains the program instructions with information about what to do in case of a mercury spill. The other larger sticker identifies the program, lists a few of the representative mercury containing products and gives instructions about what to do when the pail is full. The local program coordinators are instructed to secure the lid and call the 800 telephone number for a pickup. Contractually, Enviro-Safe provides pick-up and recycling services for the pail normally within two weeks of being notified.

In the event that a large quantity of elemental mercury is found in a residents home, special arrangements can be made for a pick up to occur at that location, see # 9, Bulk Mercury Collection.

4. Thermometer Exchange

The permanent Thermometer Exchange Program continues to be a very popular component of the overall MRP. All of the participating collection locations appreciate the ongoing exchange program and consider the program as an important outreach component for the overall mercury recovery program. Although the number of thermometers collected has dropped off from the earlier years of the program there continues to be a steady flow of residents coming into the collection sites to exchange their mercury fever thermometer for a new digital thermometer. Each community has an ample supply of digital thermometers for distribution. Many of the local program coordinators utilize the residents visit to

their office as an opportunity to further educate them about mercury and other aspects of the program.

The Thermometer Exchange collected 1,619 4-inch fever thermometers and lab thermometers in 2006. This is a few hundred less than was collected in 2005. It is anticipated that the total number of fever thermometers will continue to decrease over the next few years.

5. Thermostat Recovery

The Thermostat Recovery Program continues to expand. As a result of the expanded number of communities that have passed regulations banning the improper disposal of thermostats, mailings to contractors and local advertisements the number of recovered thermostats continues to increase.

There are now nineteen communities out of the twenty-six serviced by Wheelabrator North Andover that have passed a version of the thermostat regulation banning the improper disposal of thermostats in the waste stream.
The regulations banning the improper disposal of thermostats are very clear. They state the purpose of the regulation, definitions, penalties and effective date. The penalties associated with the regulations range from $50.00 per incident (per thermostat) up to a $300.00 fine per incident.

The purpose of encouraging local Boards of Health to pass a regulation banning the disposal of thermostats is to encourage contractors to properly dispose of these devices. The penalty associated with the regulation is an essential component. Without the threat of a potential financial penalty, contractors are less inclined to properly dispose of the thermostats. In conjunction with other educational activities such as posters, direct mailings, flyers and local newspaper advertisements contractors and residents are increasingly properly disposing of these devices.

In 2006 one direct mailing was sent to plumbers, electricians, boiler technicians and building contractors in the communities that have passed a regulation. Each mailing contained a notice signed by both the city or town's Building Director and Health Director. It also contained an informational flyer along with an educational piece developed by the MADEP, "Mercury and Health" and "Mercury and the Environment" **(Attachment #2**). In addition, two advertisements specific to thermostats were placed in the local newspapers. One ad ran in April and the other in October.

In 2006, 1,115 thermostats and 224 small switches were collected by the program. A significant number of large switches were also collected by the program. Often contractors will save switches and bring them to the collection site in plastic bags. These switches are often a combination of large (6 grams) and extra large switches of even greater weight. Enviro Safe reported the

measurement of the collected switches in two methods, some by weight and others by a count. There were ten instances where the switches were reported by weight. Due to this reporting method it is difficult determine the exact number of switches recovered although a conservative estimate is between 500 and 800 large switches. Utilizing the lower number in calculating the total number of thermostats collected (each switch = one thermostat) a total of 1,839 thermostats were collected in 2006. This represents and increase of 535 thermostats over the number collected in 2005. This clearly indicates that the program continues to have the desired effect in removing thermostats from the municipal waste stream.

6. Thermostat Reimbursement Program

A new pilot program to encourage plumbing supply businesses to collect thermostats from their customers (plumbers and contractors) was initiated in 2006. The Thermostat Reimbursement Program is designed to provide plumbers and contractors a financial incentive to properly dispose of thermostats at Plumbing Supply businesses. These businesses are where the majority of thermostats are purchased (points of purchase) and are logical locations for plumbers and contractors to properly dispose of these used devices. A total rebate of $5.00 per “whole thermostat” was offered to the plumbing supply businesses. A $3.00 rebate to be paid to plumbers and contractors who brought in thermostats and $2.00 for to the plumbing supply business for each thermostat recovered.

A flyer was developed for each participating business to distribute to their customers (Plumbers and contractors) **(Attachment #3).** Once the program was started a supply of flyers were delivered to the business to be mailed to each of their customers with a small number left for walk-in customers.

Two plumbing supply businesses signed up for the Thermostat Reimbursement Program, Arlex Supply in Arlington and Peabody Supply in Peabody MA. Arlex is a small company and did not have a pickup in 2006. Peabody Supply has three locations that will participate in the program but wanted to wait until early 2007 to actually begin the collection at each location. This program has a tremendous potential to increase the number of thermostat recovered and will be further developed in 2007.

7. School Clean Sweeps

The School Clean Sweeps Program in 2006 continued to be offered to school systems for elemental mercury and products containing mercury. The program provides a free service to school systems to inspect chemical storage areas and science laboratories and for the safe removal of elemental mercury and products or devices containing mercury. In addition to the removal service the program also provided replacement products for certain items targeted for removal. The

replacement products consisted of lab thermometers, digital barometers and portable and wall mounted sphygmomanometers.

In 2006, a follow-up School Clean Sweeps was conducted in one school system. Arlington High School had 2 fever thermometers, 198 lab thermometers and .6 pounds of elemental mercury.

8. Button Cell Battery Collection

The Button Cell Battery Collection is an on-going effort in each community. Each community has received a supply of small collection boxes for button-cell batteries. They are encouraged to distribute the boxes to targeted businesses and certain community locations for the collection of button-cell batteries. Key locations in any community consist of points of purchase such as drug stores, jewelry stores, hearing aide stores and camera stores. Also community locations such senior citizen centers, health offices and libraries are fairly good locations for the collection of button-cell batteries. With limited resources it is difficult for many communities to distribute and collect the collection boxes. Very often the only collection point is the Board of Health office.

Approximately 13,676 button-cell batteries were collected in 2006. There are about a half dozen communities that actively collect button-cell batteries which accounts for approximately ninety-percent of the recovered button-cell batteries. These particular communities either have a recycling committee or other volunteer group that regularly collects the button-cell batteries from designated collection points in community.

In 2006 a pilot Button-cell Battery Reimbursement Program for the collection of button-cell batteries was offered to the communities. If a local organization within the community could be identified that would be willing to place the collection boxes in specific collection locations and service the boxes on a monthly basis that organization would receive a reimbursement for the button-cell batteries collected. The organization would be paid $100.00 per pound up to a maximum for any calendar year of $500.00.

New flyers were developed for the program. These flyers are to be used in conjunction with the collection site to be placed in store windows, bulletin boards and store counters **(Attachment #4)**

Although a number of communities expressed an interest in participating in the program only the town of Billercia provided the necessary paper work and initiated the program by the end of 2006. It is anticipated that many of the communities will participate in the Button-cell Battery Reimbursement Program in 2007.

9. Bulk Mercury Collection

Each community has been informed that a special collection program is available for elemental mercury. If a large quantity of elemental mercury or devices containing a quantity of mercury is identified in the community, a special pickup of the mercury (or devices) is available. All of the program coordinators have been notified of this special collection service in the event of such a discovery.

In 2006 there was on very large bulk mercury collection. In the town of Winchester, a professor at Tufts University passed away. A week after his death his wife called and said that she was looking through all her husbands belongings and found a wooden barrel in their backyard that contained plastic bottles of elemental mercury. The service provided was notified and the bottles were promptly recovered the next day. There were several bottles with a combined weight of 555 pounds.

The mercury had been used by the professor in experiments. The wife was able to provide a photograph of the device that the professor had built with his graduate students using the mercury. ***(Attachment #5)***

10. Fluorescent Lamp Reimbursement

The Fluorescent Lamp Reimbursement activity completed its fourth full year of implementation. Twenty-three communities now have a fluorescent lamp recycling program in place for the collection of municipal and school lamps. This year the towns of Acton, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica and Dracut started fluorescent lamp recycling programs. A total of fourteen communities submitted invoices for reimbursement.

In 2006 a total of 82,721 linear feet of fluorescent lamps were collected this was an increase of 13,165 linear feet over what was collected in 2005. An additional 1,964 single lamps such as circular, compacts, u-tubes and HID were also collected. This is an increase of 120 of these types of lamps over what was collected in 2005. With several new communities collecting fluorescent lamps in 2006 it is anticipated that the number of lamps collected will continue to increase in future years.

11. Purchase of sheds for the storage of Universal Waste

A new program for the purchase sheds for the storage of Universal Waste was offered to the communities. This was initiated through a modification to MSP3. It was recognized that several communities could not start a fluorescent lamp collection and recycling program because they did not have an adequate location for the storage of the lamps. Other communities could not consider expanding their programs because of the same reason. A limited number of communities received sheds in 2006. Each community will have the opportunity to receive a

shed for the storage of fluorescent lamps and other universal waste over the next two years. Communities were prioritized based on need, first to help start a program and secondly to expand a program.

Six communities received sheds; Acton, Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Tewksbury and Winchester **(Attachment #6).** The towns of Acton, Billerica and Dracut were able to start fluorescent lamp collection and recycling programs as a direct result of having a shed. The towns of Chelmsford, Tewksbury and Winchester were able to improve their programs by making the recovery of lamps more available to residents and small businesses as a result of having a shed.

Program Results

The total net amount of mercury collected through the Mercury Recovery Program for 2006 weighed 691.00 pounds. This total includes a bulk collection in the Town of Winchester of 555 pounds.

The combined educational / outreach effort including regional radio ads, “Keep Mercury from Rising” video, mailings, flyer distribution, local promotions have all helped raise awareness of the health and environmental concern associated with the improper disposal of mercury and products that contain mercury.

The number of fever thermometers collected decreased slightly and the number of lab thermometers increased by 220 from the previous year. A total of 1,619 fever thermometers and 342 lab thermometers were collected in 2006. The overall recovery of thermometers has leveled off resulting in a relatively constant participation in the exchange program.

A total of 1,839 thermostats and switches were collected in 2006. This is an increase of 585 devices over the total number collected in 2005. The overall collection of thermostats continues to increase. This increase demonstrates that the thermostat regulations passed by the local boards of health in conjunction with the direct mailing and regional and local advertisements and local promotions (Posters, stickers etc.) have had their desired effect of educating residents and contractors of the need to prevent these devices from entering the municipal waste stream.

Five new communities initiated fluorescent lamp collection programs for their municipal buildings and schools in 2006. The total linear feet of fluorescent lamps collected increased to 82,721 from 69,556 for 2005. The number of other fluorescent lamps collected also increased slightly from the previous year. If the collected fluorescent lamps were placed end to end they would stretch a total of 15.67 miles.

The city of Watertown still does not have a permanent collection program. The city discontinued their program in 2003 due to lack of an adequate location when

their recycling center and DPW yard were being renovated. A meeting was held with the Watertown Recycling Committee in September with very little movement towards beginning any aspect of the program. It is hopeful that Watertown will resume the Mercury Recovery Program in 2007.

In conclusion, the Mercury Recovery Program continued to operate very successfully in 2006 in twenty-five of the twenty-six communities. The program has demonstrated an increase in the collection of mercury containing devices in every major category other than fever thermometers. The number of thermostats and linear feet of fluorescent lamps showed a significant increase over the previous three years. The regional and local outreach efforts have been very effective in educating residents about mercury and its potential harm to human health and the environment.